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NEWS RELEASE

March 11, 2005

Contact: Greg Lakes, Headwater News editor, (406) 829-9624; editor@headwatersnews.org.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS SERVICE EARNS MAJOR GRANT

MISSOULA —

Headwater News, an online daily news service for the Rocky Mountain West, has received a major grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The grant will provide Headwaters with \$200,000 over three years to continue and enhance its reporting of news and opinions that help shape the region.

Headwaters, located online at <http://www.headwatersnews.org>, is a project of the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, a policy center at The University of Montana.

"Headwaters is a unique service that provides some of the Mountain West's most influential people with a daily snapshot of the region," said CRMW Director Daniel Kemmis. "Its editors review 40 to 50 online publications each weekday morning, summarizing and providing links to relevant articles."

Headwaters chronicles the current boom in oil, gas and coalbed methane development; the growing demand for water, growth and sprawl; New West and traditional economic developments; broad demographic changes; American Indian issues; and shifts in political structures. The site also tracks daily issues that underlie these dramatic changes.

"Headwaters allows readers to connect the dots among environmental, economic, political and community issues to create a vivid picture of where we are in the Mountain

-more-

West,” Kemmis said, “and it fosters a more informed dialogue that is a critical tool in deciding where we want to go.”

The Web site’s audience includes journalists, environmental activists, federal and state officials and their staffs, natural resource specialists in a variety of government agencies, university instructors and their students, employees of dozens of companies across the Rocky Mountain West, and hundreds of residents of states and provinces stretching from Alberta and British Columbia to Arizona and New Mexico.

Headwaters was founded in 1999 with a grant from the Hewlett Foundation. It has since grown to include funding from a mix of foundation grants, reader support and revenue from product sales.

“All of these funding sources are crucial to Headwaters’ success,” Kemmis said, “but the Hewlett Foundation’s strong support throughout Headwaters’ history has been especially critical.”

The Hewlett Foundation makes grants to address the most serious social and environmental problems facing society, where risk capital, responsibly invested, may make a difference over time. The foundation places high value on sustaining and improving institutions that make positive contributions to society.

For more information, contact Headwaters editor Greg Lakes at (406) 829-9624 or editor@headwatersnews.org.

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